

### NOTHING BUT A SCHOOL.

An American visiting Glasgow University asked his Scotch guide to be shown the library. The guide said there was nothing to see in that but a lot of "bukes." The same traveler, when in England, inquired the way and the distance to Rugby, and received this reply: "What do you want to go to Rugby for? There's nothing to see there but a school."

Nothing but a school; but how great and important a thing the school has come to be! It is the school in which the young are trained for life, that has the future in its care. Much of the skill and effort of many of the best of men are given to repairing the evils of the past. But the teacher is working to improve the years that are yet to come.

In olden times the boys and girls too young to work were sent to some old dame too old to work, to be kept and perhaps be taught some simple things. And now the old dame's school has grown to be a College and many Universities. How great has become the whole science and art of education! How vast the enterprise! How lofty and generous the purpose! To gather the youth in its great marching column, and use the few years of growth and opening mind, and shaping character, and prepare it for life, is an unmeasured benefaction to youth itself, and to the world in which that life will be spent.

Education has become a science to which the best has been given that the human mind has. Many of the noblest minds and largest hearts, both men and women, are given to this noble department of human effort. If education has become large it is also broad and has many departments and steadily increases in the wide scope of its undertaking. All the wide range of human knowledge is brought into the curriculum of the schools.

Great wealth is expended every year, vast public revenues and personal gifts are poured out freely for the schools of the land. No taxation is as popular as that for education, and no private contributions are ever given so willingly. Institutions of learning, of many kinds, are housed in the most stately and costly buildings, monuments of the enlightenment and generous benefaction of our times.

Criticisms there are and no doubt should be. All this instruction and training of the young are so immensely important, for the young life itself, and its result for the generation to come, that they should be kept under the eye and scrutiny of all men. Let all be deeply interested and constantly watchful for the welfare of the school and all the work of education. And let criticism be freely made and patiently heard and weighed, that mistakes may be corrected, and better ways be found.

Sometimes we think the common schools undertake too much, that too many studies are required, that rudiments and simple things are neglected for things not so much needed in life. A great fear, very widely felt, is that for the intellectual and the ornamental, the moral is neglected, and we wish for the time when the Ten Commandments were the first and fundamental lesson, and "the fear of the Lord was the beginning of Wisdom." Widespread is the apprehension that some of the Universities have become poisoned

springs, and "too much learning has made men mad."

Both in the high places of learning and in the most humble and remote of common schools, it is the personal character of the teacher that is the most critical point. The responsibility is very great with school boards and officials, that instructors of the young, of every kind, be men and women who shall live before the young, in reverence and integrity and purity of life. No learning or accomplishment should be accepted where there is not respect for the religion which is the foundation of all that is strong and good. Let parents and all friends of the young support the school and college officials, who aim to protect our youth and build them up in moral character.

Our sympathy goes out to the neglected, forgotten children of remote sections and far off mountain valleys. It were surely wise and kind if some of the noble endeavor used in town and favored, populous sections were extended in the schools of the remote and difficult kind.

### SUNDAY OPENING AT THE POST OFFICE.

In a very large proportion of our cities and towns, the United States Government opens the doors of its post-offices for at least an hour or more every Sabbath day.

This can hardly be justified on any ground of necessity. If necessity were the plea, the answer is that in London, the largest city and the greatest business centre, the post-office is not opened.

The doing of business at the post-office has great influence in weakening the respect of the people for the laws of the States, especially for the laws forbidding Sabbath labor.

It puts temptation before the postmaster and clerks to labor improperly on the Lord's day.

It invites God's chastisement on our nation. In Nehemiah 13:17, we read this testimony concerning Sabbath work: "Did not your fathers thus (profane the Sabbath) and did not our God bring all this evil?" His reference is to the destruction of the Temple by Nebuchadnezzar, and he charges it upon their profanation of the Sabbath. From this, let America learn a lesson.

Gipsy Smith, the English evangelist, was welcomed home by a great meeting in Westminster Chapel, at which Rev. Campbell Morgan presided. The evangelist spoke very kindly and warmly of America and the reception which he received from the Christian people of this land. He said, "You have no conception of what America and its people are like until you get amongst them and their big cities." He said, "I never saw such crowds of men so deeply interested in the work—real genuine enthusiasm." He thinks America is ripe for the greatest evangelistic campaign the world has ever known. He is to return in October for meetings in Chicago and Cincinnati. Rev. John McNeil expressed the hope that Gipsy Smith is doing something to pay back the debt England owes to America for the unforgettable work of Moody and Sankey.

Life is something while the senses heed the spirit's call;  
Life is nothing when our grosser need engulfs it all.